

**Amendments to the Claims**

Please amend claim 20. The currently pending claims are listed below.

1 - 5. (Cancelled)

1 6. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for managing access to  
2 computer resources, the method comprising:

3 defining a respective valuation of each of a plurality of work items to be processed by one  
4 or more data processing systems;

5 comparing the respective valuation of each respective said work item to a respective cost of  
6 accessing additional computer resources necessary to process the work item; and

7 dynamically managing the access of additional computer resources by respective ones of  
8 the work items if the respective valuation of each of the work items exceeds the respective cost of  
9 accessing additional computer resources necessary to process corresponding ones of the work  
10 items.

1 7. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising applying a valuation heuristic to  
2 each work item.

1 8. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising applying a priority algorithm for  
2 preventing starvation of computer resources to those work items which have been delayed,  
3 whereby the processing of all the work items in a program is completed.

1 9. (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising having the priority algorithm  
2 increase respective valuations of delayed work items so as to complete processing of each of the  
3 work items prior to or at a cut-off processing date of the work item.

10 - 19. (Cancelled)

1 20. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for use in a networked  
2 environment including a grid of computing resources, and a request manager of the grid to receive  
3 requests of one or more customers for utilization of computing resources of the grid; wherein one  
4 or more computer systems of a customer is coupled to the request manager and include one or  
5 more processors; a memory coupled to at least the one processor; and, a scheduling manager  
6 residing in the memory and executable by the at least the one processor, comprising the steps of:

7 defining a respective valuation of each of a plurality of work items to be processed;

8 comparing the respective valuation of each respective said work item to a respective cost  
9 of accessing computing resources of said grid of computing resources necessary to process the  
10 work item; and

11 dynamically managing the access of computing resources of said grid of computing  
12 resources by respective ones of the work items if the respective valuation of each of the work  
13 items exceeds the cost of accessing computing resources or of said grid of computing resources  
14 necessary to process corresponding ones of the work items.

1 21. (Original) The method of claim 20 further comprising applying a valuation heuristic to  
2 each work item.

1 22. (Original) The method of claim 20 further comprising applying a priority algorithm for  
2 preventing starvation of computer resources to those work items which have been delayed,  
3 whereby the processing of all the work items in a program is completed.

1        23. (Previously Presented) A method of providing fee-based processing for programs in a  
2        processor system, whereby fees are based on utilization of computer resources for completing  
3        processing a program, the processor system including at least one processor; a memory coupled to  
4        the at least one processor, and a scheduling manager residing in the memory, the method  
5        comprising the steps of:

6                defining a respective valuation of each of a plurality of programs to be processed;

7                comparing the respective valuation of each respective said program to a respective  
8        projected fee for utilization of computer resources to process said program;

9                dynamically managing the access of computer resources to be applied to a program based  
10      on the respective valuation of a program that is to be processed; and

11                assessing a fee for the dynamically managed access of computer resources to be used.

1        24. (Original) The method of claim 23 further comprising applying a valuation heuristic to  
2        each work item for establishing the valuation of each work item.

1        25. (Original) The method of claim 24 further comprising applying a priority algorithm for  
2        preventing starvation of computer resources to those work items which have been delayed,  
3        whereby the processing of all the work items in a program is completed.

1        26. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the dynamic determination is based on  
2        different attributes of the one or more work items forming at least part of a program.

27. (Cancelled)